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Letter dated 25 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 June 2015 from the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Smaïl Chergui, transmitted on behalf of the Chair of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (see annex).

The letter conveys the outcomes of the 515th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 13 June 2015, which examined the situations in Burundi and South Sudan. The communiqués adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council on Burundi and South Sudan are also conveyed.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex to the letter dated 25 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 18 June 2015 from the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Chair of the Commission of the African Union, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, I am writing to bring to your attention the outcome of the 515th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, which took place on 13 June 2015, on the margins of the ordinary sessions of the African Union policy organs in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Peace and Security Council addressed the situations in Burundi and South Sudan, which are of utmost concern for the East Africa region, as well as for the African Union and the United Nations.

Regarding Burundi, the Peace and Security Council reaffirmed the conviction of the African Union that only dialogue and consensus, based on respect for the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution of Burundi, would make it possible to find a lasting political solution to the current crisis, and, once again, called upon all Burundian actors to show restraint and to place the national interest above all other considerations. The Peace and Security Council agreed on a set of measures aimed at expediting the search for a solution to the crisis, as captured in paragraph 10 of the communiqué on Burundi (see enclosure 1). The Peace and Security Council called on the United Nations Security Council to endorse the decisions reached.

On South Sudan, the Peace and Security Council, having expressed deep concern at the prevailing situation on the ground, reiterated its appreciation for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development-led efforts and welcomed the steps taken by the African Union to enhance its support to the mediation, including the establishment of the high-level ad hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government and the appointment of former President Alpha Oumar Konaré as the African Union High Representative for South Sudan. In paragraph 11 of the communiqué on South Sudan (see enclosure 2), the Peace and Security Council called for urgent steps towards the implementation of Security Council resolution 2206 (2015) of 3 March 2015 and reaffirmed all other steps agreed upon in its press statement on South Sudan, adopted on 22 May 2015.

I transmit herewith the communiqués adopted by the Peace and Security Council on both Burundi and South Sudan. I would be most grateful if you could kindly share them with the members of the Security Council.

It is needless to stress the critical importance of continued collaboration and coordination between the African Union and the United Nations in addressing the challenges at hand. I would like to reiterate the African Union's commitment to continue to work closely with the United Nations towards finding early solutions to the prevailing situations in Burundi and in South Sudan, as part of the strong African Union-United Nations partnership in the area of peace and security in Africa and in support of the regional efforts led, respectively, by the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

(*Signed*) Smaïl **Chergui**
Commissioner, Peace and Security

Enclosure 1

Communiqué concerning the situation in Burundi

[Original: English and French]

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 515th meeting held on 13 June 2015, at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted the following decision on the situation in Burundi:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Burundi [PSC/AHG/3(DXV)]. Council **also takes note** of the statement made by the Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, as well as of the interventions by President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, in his capacity as Chairman of the East African Community (EAC), and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN);

2. **Recalls** its earlier communiqués and press statements on the situation in Burundi, including communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(DVII), adopted at its 507th meeting held on 14 May 2015, as well as the press releases and statements by the Chairperson of the Commission. Council **reaffirms** the determination of the AU to fully assume the responsibilities arising from its role as Guarantor of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Burundi of August 2000, concluded after sustained efforts by the region and Africa as a whole, with the support of the international community;

3. **Reiterates its deep appreciation** to the EAC and the leaders of the region for their commitment and sustained efforts to facilitate the search for a lasting political solution to the serious crisis facing Burundi. Council **pays tribute** to the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, Said Djinnit, for his commitment and the outstanding efforts that he deployed for the resolution of this crisis. Council **welcomes** the contribution made by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), including the communiqués issued at the end of their Summits held in Luanda, Angola, and in N'Djamena, Chad, on 18 and 25 May 2015, respectively;

4. **Commends** the Chairperson of the Commission for her commitment and determination to facilitate a political solution to the crisis in Burundi, as well as for all the initiatives she has taken to that end;

5. **Expresses its deep concern** about the continuing stalemate in Burundi, despite the sustained efforts by the EAC, the ICGLR, the AU and the UN, with the support of bilateral and multilateral partners. Council **notes with disappointment** that the political dialogue initiated by the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, with the participation of the EAC, the ICGLR and the AU, has not produced the expected results. Council **stresses** that the current situation could jeopardize the important gains recorded following the signing of the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and the Global Ceasefire Agreement of 2003, and affect the stability of the region;

6. **Reaffirms** the AU's conviction that only dialogue and consensus, based on the respect of the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution of Burundi, will make it possible to find a lasting political solution, ensuring the preservation and consolidation of peace, as well as the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law. Council **once again calls upon** all the Burundian actors to show restraint and to place the national interest above all other considerations;

7. **Reiterates its concern** about the difficult situation of the Burundian refugees who fled their country towards the neighbouring States, **commends** the host countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania), as well as the humanitarian agencies, for their support to the concerned populations, and **calls upon** the international community to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance. Council **urges** the Government of Burundi to create the necessary conditions for their early return;

8. **Stresses** the imperative need for respect for human rights and public freedoms, as guaranteed by the Constitution of Burundi. Council **reiterates** the strong condemnation by the AU of all acts of violence and human rights abuses;

9. **Reiterates its support** to the sustained efforts being deployed by the EAC and **emphasizes** the relevance of the measures agreed upon by the Summits held in Dar-es-Salaam, on 13 and 31 May 2015, including the call for the postponement of the elections and the immediate cessation of violence, the disarmament of youth groups affiliated to political parties, the initiation of a dialogue among the Burundian stakeholders, as well as the commitment of the region not to standby in case the situation deteriorates, which provide a framework for a political and consensual solution to the crisis;

10. **Decides**, as a follow-up to its earlier communiqués and press statements and in support of the decisions of the EAC, that the following measures shall be taken to expedite the search for a consensual political solution to the crisis in Burundi:

(i) the resumption of dialogue between all the Burundian parties within one week following the adoption of the present communiqué, under the facilitation of the AU, the UN, the EAC and the ICGLR, with the support of the concerned members of the international community. Council **invites** the Chairperson of the Commission to immediately initiate the necessary consultations for the operationalization of this international facilitation, under the auspices of the Chair of the EAC;

(ii) the inter-Burundian dialogue, building on the work already done with the facilitation of the UN, shall focus on the measures to be taken to create conditions conducive to the organization of free, fair, transparent and credible elections, as well as on all the matters on which the parties disagree;

(iii) the date of the election shall be set by consensus between the Burundian parties, in the spirit of the EAC communiqués of 31 May 2015 requesting a postponement of the elections, and on the basis of a technical assessment to be undertaken by the UN;

(iv) the immediate deployment of AU human rights observers and other civilian personnel, as agreed in communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(DVII).

Council **reiterates its call** to the Government of Burundi to extend its full cooperation to this process;

(v) the deployment of AU military experts, both from the region and other regions of the continent, in collaboration with the Government and other concerned actors, to verify the process of disarming the militias and other armed groups. This group of experts, whose strength shall be determined by the Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with the region, will submit regular reports on the implementation of the disarmament process; and

(vi) the deployment of an AU election observer mission, if conditions for the organization of free, fair, transparent and credible elections, in accordance with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, are met;

11. **Looks forward** to the visit to Burundi of the EAC ministerial delegation, in pursuance of the communiqué of the Dar-es-Salaam Summit of 31 May 2015. Council **decides** to dispatch, by the first week of July 2015, a ministerial delegation including the Commission, to assess the implementation status of the decisions contained in paragraph 10 above and enable it to take the decisions that may be required, including determining the way forward, should the parties not reach an agreement within a period of two weeks after the launching of the dialogue;

12. **Reaffirms** its determination to take, in due course, and with the support of the UN Security Council, all the necessary measures against the Burundian stakeholders whose action may lead to the perpetuation of violence and would impede the search for a political solution;

13. **Welcomes** the measures taken by the Chairperson of the Commission to strengthen the AU Liaison Office in Bujumbura, as a follow-up to the relevant provisions of communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(DVII). Council **welcomes** the appointment of Professor Ibrahima Fall, as the new Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for the Great Lakes region and Head of the AU Liaison Office in Bujumbura. Council **assures** him of its full support in the fulfilment of his mandate;

14. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to formally transmit the present communiqué to the Government of Burundi and to the other concerned actors. Council **also requests** her to transmit this communiqué to all concerned regional organizations, to the UN Secretary-General and, through him, to the UN Security Council, as well as to the European Union (EU), to mobilize their support. In particular, Council **requests** the UN Security Council to endorse the present communiqué;

15. **Invites** the Chairperson of the Commission to keep Council regularly informed of the evolution of the situation to enable it to take the necessary measures;

16. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

Enclosure 2

Communiqué concerning the situation in South Sudan

[Original: English and French]

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 515th meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 13 June 2015, at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted the following decision on the situation in South Sudan:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in South Sudan [PSC/AHG/2(DXV)], as well as of the update provided by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn of Ethiopia, on the IGAD-led mediation efforts and the statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan. Council **also takes note** of the statement made by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN);

2. **Reaffirms** all its earlier communiqués and press statements on the situation in South Sudan, including communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.1 (CDLXXXIV) adopted at its 484th meeting held at the level of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, on 29 January 2015; press statement PSC/PR/BR.1 (CDXCIV), adopted at its 494th meeting held in Addis Ababa, on 24 March 2015; and press statement PSC/PR/BR.(DX), adopted at its 510th meeting, held in Swakopmund, Namibia, on 22 May 2015;

3. **Reiterates the AU's deep concern** at the prevailing situation on the ground, marked by continued fighting and attacks against civilians, as well as by a dire humanitarian crisis, including forced displacement, acute food insecurity, access restrictions and other impediments to humanitarian assistance;

4. **Strongly condemns** all the ceasefire violations committed by the parties, as reported by the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM), as well as the attacks and other egregious acts of violence and abuses of human rights against civilians, including during the fighting in Upper Nile and Unity States in the months of April and May 2015. Council **further condemns in the strongest terms** the attacks and other acts of violence and harassment targeting the humanitarian agencies and their personnel and assets. Council **commends** the humanitarian agencies for their continued assistance to the affected populations and, once again, **urges** all concerned actors to fully cooperate with them;

5. **Also strongly condemns** all restrictions and other acts obstructing the implementation of the mandates of the MVM and the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Council **reiterates its full support** to the MVM and UNMISS, and **demands** that the belligerents extend full cooperation to them to facilitate the discharge of their respective mandates;

6. **Commends** the Chairperson of IGAD and the other leaders of the region, as well as the Team of IGAD Special Envoys, for their sustained efforts in facilitating a negotiated political solution to the conflict in South Sudan;

7. **Notes with disappointment** the continued failure and unwillingness of the leaders of the warring parties to make a compromise and reach an agreement to end

the conflict in their country and the untold suffering inflicted on their own people. Council **stresses** that the continuation of hostilities, in total disregard of the suffering of the people, is tantamount to the abdication by the South Sudanese leaders of their most fundamental responsibility to their own people;

8. **Welcomes** the steps taken towards the implementation of the Arusha Agreement of 21 January 2015, and **notes** the efforts of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) of Tanzania and the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa in this regard, aimed at reuniting the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the subsequent return of the former political detainees. Council **encourages** all parties, and in particular the former detainees, to fully play the role expected of them in fostering dialogue and understanding among the SPLM leaders, in the overall interest of their country and people, as part of the search for peace, security and reconciliation in South Sudan;

9. **Welcomes** the convening of the inaugural meeting of the AU High-Level *ad hoc* Committee for South Sudan, established pursuant to communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(CDLXXIV) adopted at its 474th meeting held on 5 December 2014, as well as of the consultative meeting that it held with the IGAD Heads of State and Government, in Johannesburg, on 13 June 2015. Council **commends** the members of the *ad hoc* Committee for the commitment they have shown in accepting this responsibility and **looks forward** to their active contribution to the search for peace in South Sudan, in close coordination with IGAD. Council **notes with satisfaction** that the *ad hoc* Committee has agreed on the key elements of its work programme for the coming weeks;

10. **Further welcomes** the appointment, by the Chairperson of the Commission, of former President of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konaré, as the AU High Representative for South Sudan. Council **commends** former President Konaré for accepting this responsibility and **assures him** of its full support in the discharge of his mandate, in coordination with the *ad hoc* Committee;

11. **Recalls** its previous pronouncements on the need to take the necessary measures, in coordination with IGAD, against any party that fails to honour its commitments and continues to undermine the search for a negotiated solution to the conflict, in line with UN Security Council resolution 2206 (2015) of 3 March 2015. In this regard, Council **calls for** urgent steps by the Sanctions Committee, established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015), to designate individuals and entities subject to the measures provided for therein, and **reaffirms** all the other steps agreed upon in press statement PSC/PR/BR.(DX). Council **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary follow-up measures, including formally communicating this decision to the UN Secretary-General and, through him, to the UN Security Council;

12. **Decides** to convene a ministerial-level meeting by mid-July 2015, to consider the report of the AU Commission of Inquiry established pursuant to communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.1 (CDLXXXIV) adopted at its 484th meeting, held in Banjul, the Gambia, on 30 December 2013, to investigate human rights violations and other abuses committed during the armed conflict in South Sudan and make recommendations on the best way and means to ensure accountability, reconciliation and healing among all South Sudanese communities;

13. **Reiterates** its call to AU member States and the larger international community to provide the necessary financial resources to meet the humanitarian needs in South Sudan, noting that less than 15% of the humanitarian response plan is funded;

14. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.